

Texas House of Representatives  
Committee on Higher Education

**COVID-19 Pandemic, Request for Information**

The University of Texas Permian Basin  
Paige Cooper – Assistant VP, Government & Community Affairs  
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1. Are institutions of higher education ensuring the health and safety of students, faculty and staff during the 2020 Fall Semester? When applicable, please speak directly to classroom and lab settings, dormitories and dining halls. <https://www.utpb.edu/back-to-campus/index>

2. What plans are in place for on-campus COVID-19 testing? Do institutions have the capacity to provide testing on campus, both in terms of available supplies and labs to process tests?

UT Permian Basin does not have a health service clinic on campus and therefore does not have the capacity to provide on campus testing. UT Permian Basin partners with Trinity Family Medicine, where medical services and COVID-19 testing is available to students. Those students without insurance will receive a COVID-19 test at no additional charge at Trinity Family Medicine.

3. If applicable, what are plans for collegiate athletics this Fall? How will student athletes be kept safe? If fans will be permitted to attend events, how will fans be kept safe? UT Permian Basin is part of the Lone Star Conference, and the conference made the decision to postpone Fall athletics, with the exception of low risk sports that include tennis, cross country, and golf. Furthermore, the University is following the NCAA's Resocialization of Collegiate Sports guidelines.

<https://lonestarconference.org/news/2020/8/7/general-lsc-announces-decision-on-fall-2020-competition.aspx>

4. What do projected enrollment figures and formula funding look like to institutions for this school year?

UT Permian Basin enrollments for Summer 2020 and Fall 2020 appear to be stable with possibly slight increases. Since formula funding depends significantly on these data, funding outlook may be encouraging depending of course on actions to be taken or decided by the legislature based on available funding. General revenue reductions already announced necessitated strong actions such as a hiring freeze, RIF, pay cuts, etc. Any additional reductions would require drastic actions.

5. Has there been a noticeable impact on staff or faculty retention with regard to concerns about the pandemic?

The pandemic has not caused a noticeable impact on staff and faculty retention at UT Permian Basin. This is not surprising given the double impact of the decline in the oil business in the Permian Basin along with the pandemic.

6. How have state and federal COVID-related funds already impacted budgets?

Most of this funding at UT Permian Basin has been directed towards student aid and/or expenses related to adjusting instructional modes and operations in order to cope with COVID-19. The sudden halt to Spring 2020 housing operations significantly impacted those financial operations and it is hoped some of the residual COVID-19 funds may provide relief.